

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0020] of the Applicants' specification with the following replacement paragraph:

[0020] FIG. 1 is a schematic illustration of a system, method and apparatus for cooperative spam processing in accordance with the inventive arrangements. As shown in FIG. 1, peer participants 110A, 110B, 110C, 110n can be coupled together over a computer communications network 120 so that each of the peer participants 110A, 110B, 110C, 110n can provide notifications 120AB, 120AC, 120Bn, 120Cn to one another. Notably, the peer participants 110A, 110B, 110C, 110n can cooperate in the identification of spam received by any one of the peer participants 110A, 110B, 110C, 110n.

Please replace paragraph [0024] of the Applicants' specification with the following replacement paragraph:

[0024] To that end, in decision block 270, it can be determined whether the sending peer is a trusted source of spam advise. If not, the advice can be ignored and the process can end in block 280. Otherwise, if the peer is a trusted source of spam advise, the notification can be heeded and in block 290 the subject e-mail can be added to a spam block list. Notably, additional overriding rules can be applied to identified spam such as ignoring a peer spam notification where the e-mail source is known as an acceptable source. In any event, the actual e-mail can be listed so that if the actual e-mail subsequently is received, the e-mail can be processed as spam without

requiring intervention. Optionally, all e-mails received from the source of the spam e-mail can be processed as spam without requiring intervention.

Please replace paragraph [0027] of the Applicants' specification with the following replacement paragraph:

[0027] In accordance with the present invention, a cooperative spam control processor 350 can be coupled to the e-mail client application 340. The cooperative spam control processor 350 can be programmed to analyze received e-mail messages 370 so as to identify spam. Notably, the cooperative spam control processor 350 can rely wholly on the spam blocking features of the e-mail client application 340, or the cooperative spam control processor 350 can supplement the spam blocking features of the e-mail client application 340 with additional spam identification logic. In any case, the cooperative spam control processor 350 also can include programming for notifying peers in a common computing group when spam is received in the e-mail client application 340.

Please replace paragraph [0028] of the Applicants' specification with the following replacement paragraph:

[0028] Advantageously, a peer policy 390 can be accessed by the cooperative spam control process 350. The peer policy 390 can include data which specifies to what level the cooperative spam control process 350 is to consider the spam identification advice of other peers in the computing group. The peer policy 390 also can include rules for overriding the determination of

other peers in the group. Based upon the peer policy 390, when a notification is received from a peer in the computing group, the notification can be used to augment the spam blocking list 380.

Alternatively, the notification can be ignored.